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# THE AMERICAN JOURNAL OF NURSING

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## EDITORIAL COMMENT



### THE MEETINGS AT ATLANTIC CITY

THE meetings at Atlantic City began on Monday morning, June 21, with the League for Nursing Education and the Organization for Public Health Nursing holding meetings simultaneously—the League for Nursing Education on the Steel Pier, and the Public Health Nurses in the assembly hall of the Hotel Chalfonte. The programmes were carried out with few changes.

Atlantic City proved to be a very delightful meeting place, and the sessions seemed to go with a smoothness and lack of apparent effort on the part of those conducting them. We heard many express the hope that we might meet there again soon or that we might meet there always. The Atlantic was not at its best, the sky was overcast most of the week, and the temperature was at times too high for comfort, but many were able to enjoy the bathing and the attractions of the boardwalk.

The full report of the League for Nursing Education will be published in a volume and sent to each member, as has always been the custom, or it may be ordered in advance from the secretary. The papers and proceedings of the Public Health Nurses will be published in the *Public Health Nurse Quarterly*, and those who are not already subscribers to that magazine can obtain this special copy by ordering it in advance from the publishing office, 2041 Adelbert Road, Cleveland, Ohio.

The proceedings of the American Nurses' Association will be published in the September number of this magazine, with the papers read

at the general sessions. The meetings of that association began on Wednesday morning.

During the entire week the smaller meetings that were held showed the great improvement which this new form of organization brought about, the possibility of informal discussion, when members gathered together in a way they have never been able to do before. Each section had its chairman, with sufficient speakers prepared to make the meetings go with a swing, but with ample time for discussion on any variety of subjects; and never, to our knowledge, has there been an occasion when so many different phases of nursing work were so well thrashed out. The plan was most satisfactory to the regular delegates, but among the visitors or those not especially interested in any one department of nursing there was some fault-finding and the complaint that while hearing one good thing, they were losing another. But we have passed the point when we can hope to handle all of our different departments under the old method of general meetings, one reason being that where so many people are gathered in one large room it is impossible for most women to make themselves heard, or to carry on what is so vitally important, the intelligent discussion of a subject.

It is quite impossible in so small a space to give any adequate idea of the wealth of the material presented at these different meetings. We shall touch upon only a few points of general interest.

At the meeting of the League for Nursing Education the announcement was made of the resignation of Annie W. Goodrich from her position as inspector of nurse training schools in New York State and of her appointment to a professorship in the Department of Nursing and Health at Teachers' College, to be associated with Miss Nutting. Miss Goodrich's resignation from the State Education Department will take effect in February, 1914. The professorship was made possible through the added generosity of Mrs. Helen Hartley Jenkins, to whom the nurses of the country were already indebted for the endowment of the Department of Nursing and Health at Columbia University. While Miss Goodrich's resignation will be a great loss to nursing education in New York State, her broader influence at Columbia, which will be felt by nurses all over the country, must be considered a compensation. Her unusual experience in the Education Department at Albany makes her especially well fitted for this new position. Mrs. Jenkins was present at the convention and attended the meetings very regularly, as did Miss Mabel Boardman. Mrs. Jenkins urged the members to continue the work for higher standards of nursing. She explained her interest in

the elevation of our profession as being the result of a sad experience in her own family because of the ignorance of a nurse discharged, for cause, from one of the great training schools, who was imposed upon them as a graduate. Miss Boardman made a brilliant appeal to nurses of the country to give their support and co-operation to the department of rural nursing established under the Red Cross. She drew a picture of the wonderful usefulness of a nurse in an isolated community, not only to the poor, but to the well-to-do, who, from the fact of their isolation, are deprived of skilled nursing care.

The general trend of nursing education, as shown by the various papers and reports, is upward; there has been great advance in all parts of the country in nursing standards, things that seemed utterly impossible two years ago have come to pass with little effort, greater numbers of high school and college graduates are entering the nursing field, there are more paid instructors, more paid graduates for night work, especially where the pupils are very young, salaries paid to superintendents and teachers are better. It was suggested that schools shall give an allowance of time to college graduates.

Resolutions were passed endorsing one year in the high school, or its equivalent, for entrance to training schools, and urging that in 1915 the time be increased to two years.

Two years ago, at the meeting in Boston, it was suggested that some influential educational body outside either the nursing or the medical professions should make a thorough investigation of nurse training schools in the same way that the Carnegie Institute investigated medical schools. The Carnegie Institute was asked to undertake this work, but replied that though interested, it was unable to undertake it. It was shown that at the time this request was made, co-operation was asked from the Academy of Medicine of New York, a request which was not favorably considered. Now the Academy of Medicine has sent letters to the American Nurses' Association, the League for Nursing Education and the Organization for Public Health Nursing asking for their co-operation in requesting such an investigation. At the full meeting of the American Nurses' Association it was voted unanimously to co-operate in this request.

Three universities are reported as giving a year of preparation for nursing work, this time being given credit in certain hospitals. It was the consensus of opinion that in the schools accepting young pupils, careful supervision is necessary and that more graduate nurses should be employed to look after them.

In Massachusetts, nurses are required by law to report cases of sore eyes in the new-born, both to the board of health and to the charity organization. Knowledge of this law is to be included hereafter in the examinations for state registration.

The Organization for Public Health Nursing justified its existence by an attendance of more than 300 nurses and several directors of associations. Miss Wald, the president, in her opening address, said this organization was almost forced upon them by the need of a common forum in which to discuss their problems, and spoke of it as a strong influence for civic and social efficiency. Dr. Frankel urged the importance of establishing visiting nursing on a fee system so that families on small incomes might derive the benefit of this nursing service without being made to feel that they were recipients of charity. By arranging this, the usefulness of visiting nursing associations might be immeasurably increased and skilled nursing care assured to many households now unable to engage special nurses.

Whole sessions were devoted to one topic. "The Immigrant," occupied one afternoon, and four papers were presented, each handling a special phase of this big subject. Another session was devoted to a discussion of "Visiting Nursing from an Efficiency Standpoint." One evening was devoted to five section meetings, at which various groups discussed intimate problems and vexing differences of opinion with much ardor and undisguised thirst for more light on details of procedure. Visiting Nursing, Rural Red Cross Nursing, School and Infant Welfare Nursing, Tuberculosis Nursing, and Hospital Social Service and Industrial Welfare Work were all discussed, and so popular did these meetings prove to be that more of them have been asked for another year.

The report of the Finance Committee showed a membership of more than seven hundred, representing thirty-nine states, with receipts from dues and contributions amounting to \$4,485.75.

*The Public Health Nurses Quarterly* reported a publication free from debt with a subscription list doubled in one year. This report was followed by a most generous offer from Cleveland to guarantee the support of the quarterly until 1915, on condition that it continue to be edited and published in Cleveland. Needless to say, this offer was accepted and warm thanks voted these very good friends.

The organization can claim the unique distinction of being the first voluntary nursing association in the world to afford the services of an executive secretary. Miss Crandall's office, at the Central Nurses Club, in New York, bids fair to become a registration bureau as well as an

information desk, and the requests for advice and addresses from local visiting nursing associations would indicate that her office had been created none too soon. The constitution which was adopted makes some important changes in conditions of membership by which any nurse who is interested may become an active member. Mary C. Gardner, of Providence, R. I., was chosen as president for the coming year.

Of course, like every one else, the editor was not able to be present at all section meetings, but one which she did attend was that for private duty nurses, over which Miss Giles, of Philadelphia, presided. This was one of the most interesting of the sections. A large assembly hall in the Hotel Chalfonte was packed to the doors when the meeting opened, and many wishing to attend were turned away. The papers and discussions were of great interest and resolutions were presented to the American Nurses' Association asking that the special session on private duty nursing be made a part of each convention and that it shall be in charge of a private duty nurse. There is no question in our mind but that another year this session will need the largest hall available and that it will become as important as the League for Nursing Education or the Organization for Public Health Nursing.

The Red Cross meetings were vitally interesting and it was suggested that another year that section should have an entire day for the discussion of its work and problems.

The amendment governing membership in the American Nurses' Association, which had been mailed to the members previous to the meeting, was adopted, and amounts practically to this: that any one who has at any time in the past been sent as a delegate, and who has attended one meeting since, whether directly after the one at which she was a delegate or not, may become a permanent member by presenting proper credentials and paying annual dues of \$2.

In the report of the Robb Fund it was shown that in the coming year there are to be three scholarships. The two nurses who held scholarships during the past year were reported as having done very creditable work.

In the report of the Nurses' Relief Fund it was shown that from all sources there had been contributed \$8388.98, and that after paying the expenses necessary for the promotion of the work a balance of \$6943.43 remained. Pledge cards were distributed which covered a period of several years, but from pledges given for the coming year and with the amount raised the last afternoon, the sum was brought up to about \$9200, so that the amount needed to begin the work is nearly in sight.

Miss McIsaac made a wonderful presiding officer. Those of us who

attended the Buffalo Congress were constantly taken back to that occasion, over which she presided so gracefully. When nominations from the floor were called for to fill the vacancy caused by the withdrawal of Miss Hay's name for the second place on the ballot for president, Miss McIsaac again refused to allow her name to be placed on the ticket. The officers elected were: president, Genevieve Cooke, of San Francisco; vice-presidents, Adda Eldredge, of Chicago, and Margaret Whitaker, of Philadelphia; secretary, Mathild Krueger, of Detroit; treasurer, Mrs. C. V. Twiss, New York; directors: Mary M. Riddle, Newton Lower Falls; Jane A. Delano, Washington; Agnes G. Deans, Detroit; Mary C. Wheeler, Chicago; Ella P. Crandall, New York; and Lydia A. Giberson, Philadelphia.

There were a number of invitations for the next convention. The one from St. Louis was accepted.

#### NURSES BELONGING TO RELIGIOUS ORDERS NOT BARRED FROM THE NATIONAL ASSOCIATION

A CORRESPONDENT asks us to explain through the pages of the JOURNAL why none of the Catholic Sisters' hospitals are affiliated with the American Nurses' Association. The writer is evidently under the impression that such hospitals are excluded. There is nothing in the constitution and by-laws of the American Nurses' Association that excludes the Catholic sisterhoods. A number of alumnae associations of Sisters' hospitals are members, and there are in some states Sisters who are individual members of their state associations. So far as we know there is nothing that prevents any Sister from joining any nursing organization, provided she is also a graduate nurse from a school which complies with conditions which all other members must meet.

#### TWO TYPHOID PAPERS

WE are always glad to have for publication, at this time of the year, papers on the subject of typhoid. The two articles we give in this number of the JOURNAL are incomplete from the standpoint of treatment, but are interesting for other reasons: the first, because it was one of a symposium on typhoid, read by request at a meeting of a county medical society; and the other, because it appeals to the sympathetic interest of nurses who have had to care for typhoid in isolated places. It is also unusual in that there is no mention, from beginning to end, of the difficulties and privations endured by the nurse herself, though any one reading between the lines can see that they were not lacking.

There are a good many points in Miss Van Dever's paper with which

we think our readers may disagree. We wish we might have heard the discussion following the paper to know whether the physicians present approved of some of the methods suggested, such as the use of a solution of bichloride in the strength of 1-1000 for washing the parts after the use of the bed pan, or the use of undiluted vinegar or a slice of lemon for hardening the skin on surfaces where abrasions might occur.

#### OPPORTUNITIES IN THE FIELD OF NURSING

IN the June JOURNAL we commented on a pamphlet of this title issued by the Nursing and Health Alumni Association of Teachers College, for distribution among high school students. Miss Stewart, of the Department of Nursing and Health, wishes to correct an error in the pamphlet under the Red Cross heading, where the minimum salary paid to a nurse on active duty is given as \$40. This should have been given as \$50. The pamphlet has proved a needed one, for orders are being filled to the number of almost 4000. One training school ordered 2000 copies and had printed on the cover "Presented with the compliments of the—Training School for Nurses." This additional printing is not very expensive and could be arranged for other schools upon request.

Another excellent suggestion for interesting high school girls in nursing as a profession is that adopted by the Mt. Sinai Training School, New York City. A letter is sent by the superintendent of the training school to a high school principal, asking whether she may send, for distribution among his pupils, a pamphlet describing the training school and its advantages. If a favorable reply is received, a six-page folder is sent, with attractive illustrations, outlining the course of instruction, giving the names of the faculty members and the lecturers, the requirements for admission, dates for forming classes, etc. This is bringing good results, though the appeal does not cover so wide a field as does "Opportunities."

#### PROGRESS IN STATE REGISTRATION

WE print in our official department the text of three bills which have recently become laws. Florida's adds a new name to the roll of states giving legal protection to the well-trained nurse. California has had a law which was never enforced, no nurses having been registered under it. The new law places registration under the State Board of Health with a nurse director in charge of the detail of the work. With equal suffrage secured for the state, it is possible the nurses may at



some future time serve as members of the Board of Health and so have a more direct share in the administration of the law than now seems possible. Illinois has had a law actively enforced, but so many changes seemed needed in the original bill that, rather than hamper a statute with numerous amendments, an entirely new bill was drawn up, and the new law takes the place of the old one.

The president of the Tennessee Board of Nurse Examiners calls our attention to the fact that Section XII of the Tennessee bill safeguards the term "nurse,"—the first and, so far as we know, the only state law to do so.

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#### TOO LATE FOR CLASSIFICATION

THE retiring secretary of the American Nurses' Association, Miss Deans, requests that the following notice be inserted: Two photographs of the convention at Atlantic City are being held for Miss L. Stanley and Miss Elliot Smith, for correct addresses. They will be sent upon application to Mr. Charles B. Trout, 29 South Fleming Avenue, Atlantic City, N. J.